



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 July 2008

Current Nationwide



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http://www.dhs.gov/](http://www.dhs.gov/)

- The Associated Press reports that Congress found that operators of nuclear power plants have yet to comply with some of the government's fire safety rules three decades after they were issued. (See item [8](#))
- The U.S. Defense Department is resisting orders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up Fort Meade and two other military bases where the EPA says dumped chemicals pose "imminent and substantial" dangers to public health and the environment. (See item [25](#))

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump**

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## **Energy Sector**

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 1, Reuters* – (International; National) **Qaeda targets U.S. oil interests in n. Africa – NYT.** Al Qaeda's growing North Africa network plans to attack U.S. interests seeking control of the region's energy riches, its Algerian-based leader said in remarks published on Tuesday. The network of militants from Mauritania to Libya sees U.S. interests as legitimate targets because Washington backed the region's "criminal" governments and stole Algerian oil, the New York Times quoted the leader as saying. Asked whether his group planned attacks on U.S. soil, the leader replied, referring to the U.S. administration: "Everyone must know that we will not hesitate in targeting it whenever we can and wherever it is on this planet." He added that French, Spanish, and "Jewish"

interests were also targets. The newspaper said the leader, believed to be based in mountains east of Algiers, had given recorded audio replies to a list of questions submitted by the Times. His voice had been verified as genuine by a private voice expert who works for federal agencies, the newspaper said. His group has links with like-minded militants in the region and is the most effective armed rebel organization in the OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) member country. He said his group had witnessed an awakening of jihad around the Maghreb, adding without elaborating that this included militants in sub-Saharan oil power Nigeria. Attacks on U.S. interests have been rare in Algeria.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKL0161813020080701?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

2. *July 1, Bloomberg* – (International) **Iran says military strike would disrupt oil exports from region.** A military strike against Iran would disrupt oil production and exports throughout the region, the country's deputy oil minister said Tuesday. "Iran is completely ready actually to oppose any sort of attack," the minister said. "It would affect the export of oil not only from Iran but in the area as well." He also expressed doubt that a military strike would take place, since "industrialized countries need oil from the Middle East."  
Source:  
[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=an\\_ddPDiN0BI&refer=energy](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=an_ddPDiN0BI&refer=energy)
3. *July 1, Bloomberg* – (Texas) **American Electric Power reports fire at Welsh plant in Texas.** American Electric Power Co. reported a fire at its coal-fueled Welsh power plant in Pittsburg, Texas. The second-biggest U.S. electricity generator said it had a "fire in bunker" at the plant, and Unit 1 boiler is out of service, according to a filing the company made with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The fire began at about 5 p.m. June 29.  
Source:  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=arPx5CxRGF6w&refer=energy>
4. *June 30, KETV 7 Omaha* – (Nebraska) **OPPD estimates \$10m in damages.** The Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) said it may tally \$10 million in damages from Friday's wind storm. Round-the-clock work has left just 21,250 Omaha Public Power District customers without power at 2 p.m. Monday. More than 126,000 customers were knocked out in Friday's wind storm. More than 425 OPPD personnel are now working in the field to restore service, the power company said. Some power crews from other regions are helping. OPPD has received 75,000 calls since Friday. Typically, the Federal Emergency Management Agency will pick up 75 percent of its costs. OPPD will have to cover the other 25 percent.  
Source: <http://www.ketv.com/newsarchive/16746141/detail.html>

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## Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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## Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

5. *July 1, Reuters* – (North Carolina) **Duke N.C. McGuire 1 reactor exits outage.** Duke Energy Corp.'s Unit 1 at the McGuire nuclear power station exited an outage and ramped up to 74 percent power by early Tuesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut by June 26.  
Source:  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN0147130820080701>
6. *July 1, St. Cloud Times* – (Minnesota) **Monticello nuclear plant's storage opens.** Preparations are almost complete for spent fuel to be moved from inside the Monticello nuclear plant to a new storage facility on the plant grounds. Ten stainless steel canisters arrived from Japan about six weeks ago. The first canister will be loaded with spent fuel rods and moved sometime between August and October. The canisters will be placed in side-by-side concrete storage modules that sit on a concrete slab. The area is surrounded by two chain-link fences topped with barbed wire and monitored by cameras and other security devices. The storage facility will undergo inspections and a practice run supervised by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission before the spent fuel can be moved.  
Source:  
<http://www.sctimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080701/NEWS01/107010023/1009>
7. *July 1, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **GAO: More information needed on viability of Hanford tanks.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) needs more information to make sure its leak-prone underground tanks will last as long as they are needed to store radioactive waste, according to a report to Congress by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). "DOE and its contractors lack comprehensive information about the condition, contents and long-term viability of Hanford's aging underground waste tanks," the report said. DOE is emptying the contents of 142 tanks built from the '40s and '50s into 28 newer and sturdier double-shell tanks to await treatment and then disposal. The double-shell tanks are generally structurally sound, the GAO agreed with DOE. However, "the condition of the older, single-shell tanks – nearly half of which are confirmed or presumed to have already leaked – is much less certain," the report said. The GAO is concerned that by the time the last single-shell tank is emptied of waste it may be 91 years old, even though the single-shell tanks were built to hold waste for only a decade or two. It referred to a 2007 study by the Washington State Department of Ecology that said the probability of a single-shell tank leaking may double about every ten years. DOE disagreed that it lacked the information to make sound decisions on

managing the tank farms. As work progresses, it will be performing additional monitoring and characterization of waste, it responded.

Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/227145.html>

8. *June 30, Associated Press* – (National) **Auditors: Nuclear plants not following fire rules.** Operators of nuclear power plants have yet to comply with some of the government's fire safety rules three decades after they were issued, a congressional report said Monday. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) said there were 125 fires reported at 54 power plants since 1995, an average of nearly ten a year, although none threatened safe emergency reactor shutdown or posed any significant safety threats. The fires were mostly electrical or maintenance related. The GAO study said the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been unable to resolve "several long-standing issues" with the industry over fire safety including full compliance with NRC fire rules put in place in 1976 and 1980 as a result of the fire at the Browns Ferry plant in Alabama in 1975. A spokesman for the NRC said the agency considered the GAO report to be accurate and complete. "We will be giving the GAO's findings and conclusions serious consideration," he said.

Source: <http://www.wtop.com/?nid=116&sid=1431580>

9. *June 30, Reuters* – (Louisiana) **Entergy La. River Bend reactor up to 87 pct power.** Entergy Corp.'s River Bend nuclear power reactor ramped up to 87 percent power by early Monday from 18 percent on Friday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The company reduced the unit by Friday morning to check on a warning indicator for a pump in the unit's cooling system.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN3039033620080630>

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

10. *July 1, Associated Press* – (National) **Pentagon will buy satellites to do more spying.** The Pentagon will buy and operate one or two commercial imagery satellites and plans to design and build another with more sophisticated spying capabilities, according to government and private industry officials. The satellites could spy on enemy troop movements, spot construction at suspected nuclear sites and alert commanders to new militant training camps. The Broad Area Surveillance Intelligence Capability (BASIC) satellite system will cost between \$2 billion and \$4 billion. It would add to the secret constellation of satellites that now circle the Earth, producing still images that are pieced together into one large mosaic.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gM4mwPQcU0j446qIew8P7ZmfwNgD91L0EH00>

11. *June 30, Associated Press* – (National) **Pentagon announces charges in USS Cole bombing.** The Pentagon said Monday it is charging a Saudi with "organizing and

directing” the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole and will seek the death penalty. A brigadier general and legal adviser to the U.S. military tribunal system said charges are being sworn against a Saudi of Yemeni descent, which has been held at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, since 2006. The legal adviser said the allegations include conspiracy to violate laws of war, murder, treachery, terrorism, destruction of property, and intentionally causing serious bodily injury. The Saudi told a hearing at Guantanamo Bay last year that he confessed to helping plot the Cole bombing only because he was tortured by U.S. interrogators. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director said early this year that the Saudi was among terrorist suspects subjected to water boarding in 2002 and 2003 while being interrogated in secret CIA prisons. According to U.S. intelligence, he was tasked by al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden to attack the Cole, and also was al-Qaida’s operations chief in the Arabian Peninsula until he was caught in 2002. At his hearing last year, the Saudi acknowledged meeting with bin Laden many times and received as much as a half million dollars. The money, he said, was used for personal expenses, including for marriage and business deals. He also said he told interrogators that he used some of the money to buy explosives used to bomb the Cole, but in reality he said he gave the explosives to friends to help dig wells. He said he confessed to involvement in several other terror plots in order to get the torture to stop, including the 2002 bombing of the French oil tanker Limburg, plans to bomb American ships in the Gulf, a plan to hijack a plane and crash it into a ship, and that bin Laden had a nuclear bomb.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hr9LuImkGdEIRBsAHVktkBHKPF3QD91KI6000>

12. *June 30, Science Daily* – (National) **Avalanche photodiodes target bioterrorism agents.** Researchers have shown that a new class of ultraviolet photodiode could help meet the U.S. military’s pressing requirement for compact, reliable, and cost-effective sensors to detect anthrax and other bioterrorism agents in the air. New research shows that ultraviolet avalanche photodiodes offer the high gain, reliability, and robustness needed to detect these agents and help authorities rapidly contain an incident like the 2001 anthrax attacks. Researchers chose to develop avalanche photodiodes for this bioterrorism application because the devices can detect the signature fluorescence of biological molecules in a sample of air. The avalanche multiplication phenomenon is used to multiply normally tiny currents by factors of up to one million, thus dramatically increasing the device gain. Avalanche photodiodes can create much larger currents for each photon compared to normal photodiodes. Once the necessary electric field strength has been achieved inside the device, the avalanche effect starts with just one free electron. Since the illuminated photodiode will contain many free electrons, an avalanche will always occur if the electric field is large enough. With proper manufacturing, these avalanche photodiodes can be used for more than detecting bioterrorism agents. They can also be used detect fires, gun muzzle flashes, missile propulsion flames, and maybe even cancer cells, according to one researcher.

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/06/080625193916.htm>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

13. *July 1, Tennessean* – (National) **Criminals snare savvy buyers with sophisticated Web scams.** Online auction fraud is the most common, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Last year, the agency received 206,884 complaints about crimes perpetrated over the Internet, amounting to a record of nearly \$240 million in losses, a \$40 million increase from the year before. The criminals themselves have become more sophisticated in recent years, according to law enforcement. Some are working in international gangs, many of which are in Eastern Europe, where access to affordable technology is combined with high unemployment and weak law enforcement, according to the supervisory special agent for the FBI's cyber crime squad in Nashville and Memphis. In Tennessee, 9,920 consumers told the Federal Trade Commission they were victims of fraud last year, a 44 percent increase from the previous year. The better criminals are getting people to click on Web sites that secretly install software to track your movements. That software, totally undetected by the user, can find out your bank account and passwords when you pay your bills online or handle other financial transactions.

Source:

<http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080701/BUSINESS01/807010329/1003/NEWS01>

14. *July 1, Tallahassee Democrat* – (National) **Hackers hit Dave & Buster's in credit-card fraud.** The U.S. Department of Justice has confirmed arrests and the name of the national restaurant chain in a credit and debit card fraud case that hit Tallahassee last week when Envision Credit Union de-authorized 612 cards it had issued to members. Houston-based Dave & Buster's restaurants were named in the case that began in 2006 when information on more than a million credit and debit cards was compromised in a computer hacking incident. 27-count indictment was issued by a New York State grand jury, according to a Justice statement. The three men are charged with wire fraud conspiracy, wire fraud, conspiracy to possess unauthorized access devices, access device fraud, aggravated identity theft, conspiracy to commit computer fraud, computer fraud, and interception of electronic communications. Stolen was "Track 2" data, which includes card numbers and expiration dates. Losses in the case have been in excess of \$600,000. The senior vice president at Envision Credit Union said no charges or debits were incurred against cards issued to members. However, the institution has begun the process of reissuing cards to 468 debit card holders and 144 credit card holders as a precaution.

Source:

<http://www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080701/BUSINESS/807010318/1003>

15. *June 30, Seacoast Online* – (New Hampshire) **Hannaford data breach fallout continues.** Approximately 7,000 individuals who have Ocean National Bank ATM/Debit Cards are having them replaced because there has been recent illegal activity on them reported. "At the time (of the breach) we gave Ocean customers the opportunity to have their debit cards re-issued," said a senior vice president with



Chittenden Bank, a sister institution of Ocean's. With new illegal activity taking place, bank officials decided now is the time for a total re-issue, she said. A letter was sent to all Ocean customers dated June 25, advising them of that decision. The fraudulent activity involves only signature-based transactions, so current Ocean Debit Cards can still be activated using the customer's personal identification number, the bank indicated. Customers were also cautioned to continue to check their monthly statements and utilize the bank's online system to review transactions. The company says credit and debit card numbers were stolen during the card authorization transmission process but no personal information like names, addresses, or telephone numbers was divulged.

Source:

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080630/BIZ/80630032/-1/NEWS19>

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## **Transportation Sector**

16. *July 1, Southeast Missourian* – (Missouri) **Highway 177 closed due to river flooding.** Highway 177 between Cape Girardeau County Road 643 and 657 was closed Tuesday due to rising floodwater from the Mississippi River, according to the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). At 9 a.m. today, 10 inches of water was on the closed section of the road. MoDOT officials urged motorists to use extreme caution.  
Source:  
<http://www.semissourian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080701/NEWS01/551883956/-1/news01>
17. *July 1, South Jersey Courier Post* – (National) **U.S. starts regulating freight rail security.** A federal rule, which the Bush administration will begin enforcing today, seeks to minimize the chances of terrorists attacking freight trains carrying hazardous chemicals that can be fatal if inhaled. It requires the freight rail industry to collect data and analyze the risks associated with carrying hazardous materials. The idea is to use the information to figure out the safest route to carry such substances when traveling through crowded regions. The broader importance of the rule is that it marks the first time since 9/11 that the federal government is getting involved in freight rail security. And it potentially thwarts state and local authorities from passing laws to block chemical-carrying trains from entering their borders. Congress, the Bush administration, and the state of New Jersey agree that the freight rail industry is best equipped to figure out the safest methods and routes to transport these materials. But critics argue that the government should not allow railroads to decide which routes are most secure. Federal officials should instead force railroads to go around crowded areas or find other routes to move dangerous chemicals.  
Source:  
<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080701/NEWS01/807010365/1006>
18. *July 1, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Logan will install body scanners.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) said Monday it will beef up screening at

Boston's Logan International Airport with better x-ray machines to check carry-on bags and full-body scanners that can see through clothing to detect whether travelers are concealing objects. The TSA plans to outfit the airport in October or November with more than one whole-body imaging machine, which produces three-dimensional images of people's naked bodies. The machines have raised privacy concerns where they have been tested, but the agency says procedures have been modified to protect passenger privacy. The TSA's federal security director for Logan said: "They've turned down the intensity a bit so some of the images under the clothes will be fuzzy. They've also remotely located the person viewing the images so that person can't associate the image with the passenger. We don't have any capability to store or to print any of these images." The machines can detect nonmetallic objects hidden under clothing, such as explosives, and will replace pat downs of travelers who trigger a metal detector or are flagged as a "person of interest."

Source:

[http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2008/07/01/logan\\_will\\_install\\_body\\_scanners/](http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2008/07/01/logan_will_install_body_scanners/)

19. *June 30, KSBY 6 San Luis Obispo* – (California) **Highway 1 closed near Big Sur due to Basin Complex fire.** As of Monday, June 30, both directions of Highway 1 in Monterey County south of Big Sur remained closed to through traffic for a 20-mile section due to the Basin Complex fire. From the south, the highway was closed just north of the town of Lucia, 23 miles south of Big Sur. From the north, the highway is closed at the Nepenthe South Entrance, about three miles south of Big Sur. There was no estimated time of reopening the highway, which has been closed since Saturday afternoon, June 21.

Source: <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=8581094>

20. *June 30, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Airlines get high marks from FAA.** A three-month review of U.S. airline maintenance, part of a stepped-up federal safety policy, gives carriers overall high marks for compliance, according to federal officials. After checking thousands of specific maintenance records and aircraft repairs, inspection teams from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) found an "exceptionally high" level of industry-wide compliance with the agency's mandates, these officials said. Slated to be completed Monday with the results to be announced in mid-July, the review is likely to give the FAA and its backers new ammunition to fend off criticism that the agency has become too cozy with some of the airlines it regulates. Compliance with airworthiness directives, or federal safety mandates, has been in the spotlight since earlier this year, when maintenance slip-ups by Southwest Airlines Co. and AMR Corp.'s American Airlines prompted a congressional and public uproar. FAA officials ordered two separate industry-wide reviews of compliance issues.

Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121478668477914697.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121478668477914697.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**



21. *June 30, KYTV 3 Springfield* – (Missouri) **Sparkler bombs worry firefighters in Ebenezer area.** Someone found a sparkler bomb on Monday morning placed next to a homeowner's rural mailbox in northern Greene County, Missouri. Law enforcement officers and firefighters say it is a prank that is becoming a widespread problem. In this case, investigators think no one was injured largely because the fireworks fizzled on their own thanks to the wet ground. However, the fire department captain says this is not the first time this area has been the target of similar types of bombs.  
Source: <http://www.ky3.com/news/local/22714539.html>

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## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

22. *July 1, New York Times* – (National) **Promise of biofuel clouded by weather risks.** The record storms and floods that swept through the Midwest last month struck at the heart of America's corn region, drowning fields and dashing hopes of a bumper crop. The floods have helped send the price of ethanol up 19 percent in a month. They appear to have had little effect on the price of gasoline at the pump, as ethanol represents only about six percent of the nation's transport fuel today. But that share is expected to rise to at least 20 percent in coming decades. It is still too early to estimate damage to corn crops from the recent floods, or their impact on ethanol output. Iowa, the biggest corn state, may have lost as much as 10 percent of its harvest, according to preliminary estimates. The chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates, a consulting firm said, "In addition to geopolitical risks, you must now add weather risks." While storms, torrential rains, and hurricanes have always been a part of energy production, the areas where most of the nation's new oil and ethanol supplies are coming from the corn-belt and the Gulf of Mexico are especially vulnerable to hazardous weather. The secretaries of energy and agriculture, in a joint letter to the Senate, recently said: "If we assumed a supply disruption of ethanol, we would expect a fairly large increase in the price of gasoline until ethanol supply were re-established or new market equilibriums were achieved."

Source:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/01/business/01weather.html?\\_r=2&oref=slogin&page\\_wanted=all&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/01/business/01weather.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&page_wanted=all&oref=slogin)

23. *June 30, University Chronicle* – (National) **Standards for organic food to change.** In 2002 the U.S. Department of Agriculture put national standards on organic food products under the National Organic Program (NOP). The NOP covers in detail all aspects of food production, processing, delivery, and retail sale. Farmers and food processors must be certified under NOP to use the word organic in reference to their business and products. Various alternative organic standards are rising. The seed and storage crops such as grains, beans, nuts, potatoes that are produced within a 300-mile radius of their final sale and fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs, and meat products that are produced within a 50-mile radius of their final sale will be labeled authentic food within the year. "Growing organic products is about producing products with natural ingredients and processes. This can be a good thing environmentally, if it reduces pollution and energy use. It also can be misleading, because just because

something is natural that does not necessarily mean it is good for you,” a St. Cloud State University department of biological sciences assistant professor said.

Source:

<http://media.www.universitychronicle.com/media/storage/paper231/news/2008/06/30/News/Standards.For.Organic.Food.To.Change-3386570.shtml>

24. *June 30, Reuters* – (National) **Study finds hormone may make dairy farming greener.** Using bovine growth hormones to boost milk production could help the dairy industry significantly reduce its impact on the environment, U.S. researchers said on Monday. They said supplementing 1 million cows with the growth hormone recombinant bovine somatotropin or rbST would have the same effect as removing about 400,000 cars from the road or planting 300 million trees. Opponents say it can have harmful effects on both the cows and humans who drink their milk. Decomposing manure produces methane, a greenhouse gas. Scientists say controlling methane emissions from animals would help address climate change. Researchers figured using the hormones would let 843,000 cows produce the same amount of milk now produced by 1 million. That would save 491,000 tons of corn, 158,000 tons of soybeans, and total feed would be reduced by 2.3 million tons. The change would allow farmers to reduce the amount of cropland needed by 540,000 acres and reduce soil erosion by 2.3 million tons a year, they said. And it would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1.8 billion pounds, methane emissions by 90 million pounds, and nitrous oxide emissions by 210,000 pounds. A senior scientist with Consumers Union said the study is based on a “false notion” that you can produce the same quantity of milk with less feed.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSN3040831720080630?feedType=RSS&feedName=environmentNews&sp=true>

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## **Water Sector**

25. *June 30, Washington Post* – (National) **Pentagon fights EPA on pollution cleanup.** The U.S. Defense Department is resisting orders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to clean up Fort Meade and two other military bases where the EPA says dumped chemicals pose “imminent and substantial” dangers to public health and the environment. The Pentagon has also declined to sign agreements required by law that cover 12 other military sites on the Superfund list of the most polluted places in the country. The contracts would spell out a remediation plan, set schedules, and allow the EPA to oversee the work and assess penalties if milestones are missed. The actions are part of a standoff between the Pentagon and environmental regulators that leaves the EPA in a legal limbo as it addresses growing concerns about contaminants on military bases that are seeping into drinking water aquifers and soil. Under executive branch policy, the EPA will not sue the Pentagon, as it would a private polluter. Experts in environmental law said the Pentagon’s stand is unprecedented. Pentagon officials say they are voluntarily cleaning up the three sites named in the EPA’s “final orders” – Fort Meade in Maryland, Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, and McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. At all three sites, the military has released toxic chemicals – some known to

cause cancer and other serious health problems – into the soil and groundwater.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/29/AR2008062901977.html?hpid=topnews>

26. *June 29, WHDH 7 Boston* – (Massachusetts) **Mass. beaches closed for bacterial contamination.** Beaches across the Bay State are closed for swimming because of high bacteria levels in the water. Health officials say heavy rains likely washed contaminants into the water. Warnings have been issued for parks in Hopkinton, Ashland, and Concord.

Source: <http://www3.whdh.com/news/articles/local/BO81378/>

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

27. *July 1, Washington Post* – (Maryland) **Beeping package sends hospital into 2-hour, bomb-alert frenzy.** Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park was shut down Monday by a seemingly harmless, shoebox-size package delivered by UPS. A hospital employee noticed a beeping sound coming from the box and rushed the package back to the loading dock. The hospital then went into mini-disaster-alert mode: no ambulances, patients, or doctors were allowed to enter the campus; traffic on nearby streets was diverted; and patients whose rooms were near the loading dock were moved to another part of the hospital. Explosives investigators put on bomb suits and X-rayed the package. The package was determined to be not a bomb but a tracking device for Alzheimer's patients, a fire spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/30/AR2008063002073.html>

28. *July 1, Washington Post* – (National) **E-Prescription networks to merge.** The nation's two electronic prescription networks plan to announce Tuesday that they are merging in an effort to encourage the adoption of their technology by doctors and patients. Alexandria-based SureScripts and St. Paul, Minnesota-based RxHub are extensions of different parts of the pharmaceutical industry. SureScripts is owned by retail and independent pharmacies; RxHub is owned by three major drug benefit managers, which are also mail-order pharmacies. The companies say they hope the broader use of the technology will cut down on costs and medical mistakes. For about seven years, the firms have tried to persuade doctors to dump handwritten prescriptions in favor of sending prescriptions electronically to pharmacies and mail-order suppliers. But doctors have been slow to adopt. Only two percent of the 1.5 billion annual prescriptions are submitted electronically to pharmacies. The companies say the advantages of electronic prescriptions include avoiding dangerous handwriting errors, warning about drugs that might conflict with one another, and making it easier to review insurance coverage for various drugs. According to the Institute of Medicine, 7,000 patients die and 1.5 million people are injured by medication errors each year.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/06/30/AR2008063002072.html>

29. *July 1, News Inferno* – (National) **Sage Products recalls medical device for bacterial contamination.** Sage Products Inc. has issued a recall of some lots of 2% Chlorhexidine Gluconate Cloth Patient Preoperative Skin Preparation because it could be contaminated with the bacteria *Burkholderia cepacia* (*B. cepacia*). According to the company's recall notice, the defective product was shipped to U.S. hospitals and medical centers nationwide between April 28 and June 19, 2008. This voluntary recall of Sage 2% Chlorhexidine Gluconate Cloth Patient Preoperative Skin Preparation is limited to a specific set of product code numbers and corresponding lot. *B. cepacia* has been implicated in product recalls in the past. In May, Hydrox Labs in Elgin, Illinois, issued a voluntary recall of Cardinal Health-labeled alcohol-free mouthwash due to contamination with the bacteria. In 2005, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) was notified by several states of clusters of pneumonia and other infections caused by *B. cepacia* and associated with contaminated mouthwash. In 2004, the CDC was notified of a voluntary recall of over-the-counter nasal spray due to contamination with *B. cepacia* complex.

Source: <http://www.newsinferno.com/archives/date/2008/07/>

30. *July 1, Daily Herald* – (Illinois) **Measles outbreak in suburbs worries health officials.** Northwest suburb Cook County, Illinois, has been hit by 11 cases of measles in the last two months - 11 more than it's seen in the last 13 years combined, the Cook County Department of Public Health announced Monday. All 11 Cook County cases involved home-schooled children age 18 months to 14 years old whose parents chose not to have them vaccinated, said a spokesman for the department. Cook is mirroring DuPage County, which has had 14 cases so far this year, a DuPage health department spokesman said. Between the two counties, the region is accounting for 25 out of Illinois' 26 cases this year, with downstate Franklin accounting for one. "In general, it appears that our region is experiencing an uptick," said Cook County's spokesman said. Chicago and the South suburbs have not had a single case.

Source: <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=213972&src=5>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

31. *June 30, Fort Worth Star-Telegram* – (Texas) **Powder investigated at Fort Worth federal building.** Firefighters on Monday were examining a powdery substance that was in a package delivered to the Fritz G. Lanham Federal Building in downtown Fort Worth, although there did not appear to be any immediate threat to the public, a government official said. The fire department was notified about the substance at 8:15 a.m., and an FBI agent was also on hand. A similar incident happened March 10 at the building, when a white powdery substance fell from an envelope that also contained a threat to the president of the United States. According to a manager for the General Services Administration, which manages the building, there was no threat attached to the most recent package.

Source: <http://www.star-telegram.com/229/story/732245.html>

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## Emergency Services Sector

32. *June 30, Federal Computer Week* – (National) **GAO cites problems with response tools.** The nation's first responders still lack sufficient tools to respond to a terrorist attack involving the release of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear (CBRN) materials in an urban area despite several federal initiatives undertaken since the terrorist attacks of 2001, according to government auditors. Although the equipment used by the country's urban police, fire, and emergency response personnel can detect radiological and nuclear materials, it cannot predict how the materials will disperse in urban areas, according to a three-and-one-half year investigation by Government Accountability Office (GAO). In addition, models created by different federal agencies that predict atmospheric dispersion of CBRN agents in urban areas have shown "an unpredictable range of uncertainty," and available commercial chemical and biological detection devices range in their capabilities. Currently, no federal agency has been tasked to develop, certify, and test equipment that first responders use to identify radiological and nuclear materials, according to the study. Moreover, although the Homeland Security Department (DHS) tests and certifies chemical- and biological-detection equipment that the department is developing for first responders, the effectiveness of detection equipment that localities purchase is not independently verified by federal authorities. "A formalized process needs to be established for the evaluation and validation of manufacturers' claims regarding commercial bioterrorism detection equipment," the report concluded. The report, released June 27, also said DHS' nationwide environmental monitoring system, BioWatch, does not provide immediate, real-time data to first responders regarding biological threats. In addition, the interagency group established to coordinate dispersion modeling predictions does not have procedures in place to reconcile contradicting predictions.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/online/news/153010-1.html#>

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## Information Technology

33. *July 1, Register* – (National) **Apple's fourth Leopard spits out 25 patches.** Apple has issued 25 security updates that come bundled with Monday's release of Mac OS X 10.5.4. The firm said its latest Leopard release addresses operating system and application performance issues and fixes a heap of security flaws. The update affects operating system components that include CoreTypes, c++filt, Net-SNMP, Ruby, Tomcat, VPN, Alias Manager, and Webkit. Six of the vulnerabilities affect the Ruby programming language. Apple said: "Multiple memory corruption issues exist in Ruby's handling of strings and arrays, the most serious of which may lead to arbitrary code execution."
- Source: [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/07/01/apple\\_mac\\_leopard\\_4\\_security/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/07/01/apple_mac_leopard_4_security/)
34. *July 1, IDG News Service* – (National) **Study: Astounding number of laptops lost in airports.** According to a new survey, some of the largest and medium-sized U.S. airports report close to 637,000 laptops lost each year, according to the Ponemon

Institute survey released Monday. Laptops are most commonly lost at security checkpoints, according to the survey. Close to 10,278 laptops are reported lost every week at 36 of the largest U.S. airports, and 65 percent of those laptops are not reclaimed, the survey said. Around 2,000 laptops are recorded lost at the medium-sized airports, and 69 percent are not reclaimed. Travelers seem to lack confidence that they will recover lost laptops. About 77 percent of people surveyed said they had no hope of recovering a lost laptop at the airport, with 16 percent saying they would not do anything if they lost their laptop during business travel. About 53 percent said that laptops contain confidential company information, with 65 percent taking no steps to protect the information. Airports, along with hotels and parked cars are places where laptops can be easily stolen, said the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on its Web site. The confusion of going through security checkpoints can make it easy for travelers to lose track of their laptops, making it “fertile ground for theft,” the FTC said. The FTC recommends people treat laptops “like cash.” Like a wad of money, a laptop in public view – like the backseat of the car or at the airport – could attract unwanted attention. The FTC also recommends using tracking devices which can help track down a stolen laptop by reporting its location once it is connected to the Internet.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=mobile\\_and\\_wireless&articleId=9105319&taxonomyId=15&intsrc=kc\\_top](http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=mobile_and_wireless&articleId=9105319&taxonomyId=15&intsrc=kc_top)

35. *June 30, Dark Reading* – (National) **Social engineering expert reveals brick-and-mortar identity theft risks in banks, ISPs, and other firms.** A researcher performing social engineering exploits on behalf of several U.S. banks and other firms in the past year has “stolen” thousands of identities with a 100 percent success rate. The hacking director for PacketFocus Security Solutions and chief executive officer of RedFlag Security says organizations typically are focused on online identity theft from their data resources, and do not think about how the same data can literally walk out the door with a criminal posing as an auditor or a computer repairman. He once walked out of a client site carrying their U.S. mail tray with 500 customer statements inside it, he says. “This is the forgotten and overlooked” security risk for identity theft, he says. “That’s why the first time we show [our clients] what we can do, it blows them away.” But with the Federal Trade Commission’s (FTC) new identity theft regulations requiring banks, mortgage firms, credit unions, automobile dealerships, and other companies that provide credit to assess identity theft risks as well as add policies and procedures to pinpoint any “red flags” as of this November, the hacking director and his team are in hot demand to perform undercover social engineering exploits for banks and other firms to test their ID theft vulnerabilities.

Source: [http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc\\_id=157855](http://www.darkreading.com/document.asp?doc_id=157855)

36. *June 30, CNet* – (National) **PDT SecureWorks unmask the Coreflood Trojan.** On Monday, SecureWorks released its analysis of the Coreflood Trojan, providing an inside look at a stealthy online predator. According to a blog by the director of malware research for SecureWorks, Coreflood started out as an internet relay chat botnet back in 2002. Coreflood – or AFcore, as the author refers to it within the code – is apparently viewed by its author as corporate software that can be tweaked as business needs



change. For example, over the last six years, Coreflood has evolved from initiating distributed denial-of-service attacks to collecting IDs and passwords for bank fraud. With the help of Spamhaus, an antispam organization, SecureWorks was able to gain cooperation from one of the command and control centers for Coreflood. What the research found was not only source code but 50 gigabytes of compressed data, searchable in a MySQL database. Within was 378,758 unique bot IDs over a 16-month period. Logged was the time-stamped lifecycle – from infection to removal – of each compromised computer. They found the average to be about 66 days.

Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-10789\\_3-9981248-57.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1\\_3-0-5](http://news.cnet.com/8301-10789_3-9981248-57.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-5)

37. *June 30, CNet* – (National) **Google Calendar now the target of phishers.** A few months ago, spam came to Google Calendar. Now, phishing has arrived. An intrepid Google watcher wrote late last week about being the target of a phishing attempt via Google Calendar. He received an e-mail to his Gmail account with a reference to a legitimate event from his calendar. The sender was listed as “customer care” and it asked him to verify his account by supplying his user name and password. “We are having congestions (sic) due to the anonymous registration of Gmail accounts so we are shutting down some Gmail accounts and your account was among those to be deleted. We are sending you this email to so that you can verify and let us know if you still want to use this account,” the e-mail said, complete with grammatical and spelling mistakes that can tip people off to phishing attempts. On May 28 a Google Talk Guide addressed the issue in a Google Groups thread. He urged users to click the “Report Phishing” link if they receive suspicious e-mails and not click on links or open attachments. Google representatives did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment on Monday.
- Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-10784\\_3-9981349-7.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1\\_3-0-5](http://news.cnet.com/8301-10784_3-9981349-7.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-5)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

38. *July 1, Associated Press* – (National) **CFI report: Cable, satellite call centers fail.** The cable and satellite industry received another poor report card Tuesday for customer service as a report from CFI Group North America ranked it last among eight industries evaluated. Adding in all criteria, cable, and satellite posted a 66 rating (down from 68 in the prior year), last out of eight industries that averaged 72, up from 70 last year, indicating that business in general is improving. The CCSI scale goes 1-100.
- Source: <http://www.broadcastingcable.com/article/CA6574508.html>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

39. *June 30, Xinhua* – (International) **Beijing starts passenger security checks in all subway stations.** Beijing subway passengers were subjected to new security checks on Sunday at the start of a three-month campaign to ensure a safe Olympic Games and Paralympics. More than 3,000 inspectors at 93 metro stations began searches for dangerous articles, including guns, ammunition, knives, explosives, flammable and radioactive materials, and toxic chemicals, said a spokesman for Beijing Subway Operation Company. Liquids would also be checked, unless the passenger takes a drink in front of inspectors, said the Legal Evening News newspaper. Large items of luggage would be checked by X-ray machines, while smaller bags would be randomly checked. More than 30 dogs were also to be used for random inspections, and another 30 were being trained, he said. The Legal Evening News reported that the X-ray machine check took 15 seconds, a body scan 10 seconds, a liquids check four seconds and dog check five seconds. Under Chinese law, passengers are banned from carrying dangerous materials on public transport, including buses, subways, trains, and aircraft. Offenders can be detained from five to 15 days.

Source: <http://intl.2008.cctv.com/20080630/103638.shtml>

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

40. *June 30, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility* – (National) **Supreme Court decision scrambles national park firearm plan.** A plan by the U.S. president's administration to tie firearms regulations in national parks and refuges to state law will compound the legal chaos created by last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the District of Columbia's gun law, according to comments filed by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. Today is the final day of public comment on the plan which would drop park rules dating back a century in favor of changing and uncertain state firearms laws. On April 30, 2008, the U.S. Interior Department proposed to repeal nearly century-old national park rules requiring that firearms be unloaded and unavailable for ready use. In its place, the current administration would substitute the various laws governing "any state park, or any similar unit of state land, in which state the federal park, or that portion thereof, is located." Under the plan, national parks within the District of Columbia, such as the National Mall and even the White House, may have no enforceable firearms restrictions if the D.C. government is unable to fashion a new, legally defensible set of firearm restrictions once the ruling takes full effect in July. Since its origin, the national park system has forbidden or severely restricted hunting, making carrying restrictions a key anti-poaching strategy.

Source: <http://www.commondreams.org/news2008/0630-01.htm>

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## **Dams Sector**

41. *July 1, Journal News* – (New York) **Major renovations for Croton Dam.** The New York City agency that owns and administers Croton dam is rolling out plans to the public for upgrades that would increase its longevity and make it better suited to face extreme weather conditions. Construction would begin in 2011 and last four years. Representatives from the city's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) met recently with Croton and Cortlandt leaders to spell out the initial concept for plans to raise the lip of the dam by four feet to increase capacity and flood 20 acres of nearby woodlands. The reservoir behind the dam provides drinking water for New York City and some Westchester communities, and it also feeds the Croton River. A DEP engineer said the upgrade is part of a long-term maintenance plan to make the water supply less vulnerable to severe environmental swings. Meanwhile, the channel that drains the dam would be deepened, so even a hit from an enormous hurricane would not overwhelm the structure. The imposing front wall of the dam, carved and hewn by thousands of masons and laborers in the early 1900s, would also be cleaned and restored. Some enhanced security measures, which the DEP did not specify, would also be introduced. The seepage of water through some sections of the dam, which the DEP said was a minor issue, would also be fixed.

Source: <http://lohud.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080701/NEWS02/807010370/-1/SPORTS>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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